

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03

OMB-01 AID-05 H-01 IGA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 /058 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

DIA WASHDC

ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO (POUCH)

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MEXICO 1295

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR MX

SUBJ: MISSION MONTHLY NARCOTICS REVIEW FOR JANUARY, 1975

REF: A. MEXICO 374 B. MEXICO A-37 C. MEXICO 682 D. MEXICO 750

E. MEXICO A-8 F. MEXICO 102 (NOTAL) G. MEXICO 1125

H. DEA WEEKLY PROGRESS REPORTS (NOTAL) I. MEXICO 591

J. MEXICO 533 K. MEXICO 1043

FOR: DIA AH-7

DEPT PASS DEA HDQS-EOI FOR CUSACK

DEPT PASS US CUSTOMS HDQS FOR CMSR. ACREE

SUMMARY: WITH THE ENDING OF THE POST-HOLIDAY DOLDRUMS AND THE BEGINNING OF THE GOM SPRING ERADICATION CAMPAIGN, NARCOTICS-RELATED DEVELOPMENTS IN MEXICO CAME THICK AND FAST. THE NEW NARCOTICS LAW ENTERED INTO FORCE; THE GOM PREPARED ITS POSITIONS FOR THE CND MEETING IN GENEVA; THE GOM PREPARED TO SEND 33 PROFESSIONALS FOR TREATMENT/REHABILITATION TRAINING IN MIAMI; WE INSTITUTED A MORATORIUM ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF UNAPPROVED ANTIDRUG PROPAGANDA; THE EMBASSY RECEIVED AND IS ACTING ON GUIDELINES FOR DEA OPERATIONS IN COUNTRY; WE RESPONDED
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TO THE SEMI-ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS; THE GOM'S

SPRING ERADICATION CAMPAIGN GOT UNDERWAY, ATTENDED BY MANY PROBLEMS BUT ALSO MUCH PROMISE; IMPRESSIVE SEIZURES OF OPIUM WERE REPORTED, ALBEIT SOMEWHAT OPTIMISTICALLY; AND BOTH TRAFFICKING AND DOMESTIC DRUG ABUSE (AND CORRECTIVE MEASURES) RECEIVED MUCH PRESS PLAY DURING JANUARY. ON THE ENFORCEMENT SIDE, THE MONTH PILED UP SOME VERY RESPECTABLE TOTALS: OVER 9 MILLION SQUARE METERS OF POPPIES ERADICATED; 246 KG. OF OPIUM GUM SEIZED AND NEARLY 19 KG. HEROIN CONFISCATED. PERHAPS BEST OF ALL: FIVE HEROIN LABORATORIES REPORTED DESTROYED. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY AND GOM ACTIVITIES

A. THE REVISED MEXICAN NARCOTICS LAW ENTERED INTO EFFECT ON JANUARY 27. THE NEW LAW TIGHTENS THE PENALTIES FOR NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS, AND AT THE SAME TIME PROVIDES MORE FLEXIBILITY SO THAT YOUNG, FIRST-TIME OFFENDERS MAY AVOID PRISON SENTENCES. THIS HAS BEEN REPORTED IN MEXICO 374 AND MEXICO A-37.

B. ON THE MULTILATERAL SIDE, THE GOM APPEARS TO BE MOVING CLOSER TO RATIFYING THE PROTOCOL TO THE SINGLE NARCOTICS CONVENTION (SEE MEXICO 682). THE GOM HAS ALSO REQUESTED INFORMATION ON THE USG POSITIONS TO BE TAKEN AT THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTICS DRUGS IN GENEVA (SEE MEXICO 750).

C. MR. TOM CAHILL OF NIDA'S MIAMI TRAINING CENTER VISITED MEXICO IN LATE JANUARY TO WORK OUT FINAL DETAILS OF A PROGRAM WHICH WILL TRAIN SOME 33 MEXICAN PROFESSIONALS IN TREATMENT/REHABILITATION, IN A TWO WEEK COURSE AT THE CENTER. THIS WILL BE REPORTED FURTHER, AFTER THE TRAINING HAS BEEN COMPLETED, IN THE MISSION MONTHLY REPORT FOR FEBRUARY.

D. IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST BY DR. GUIDO BELSASSO, DIRECTOR OF THE MEXICAN CENTER FOR DRUG DEPENDENCE RESEARCH (CEMEF) WE CIRCULARIZED THE CONSTITUENT POSTS, ASKING THEM TO REFRAIN FROM CONFIDENTIAL

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DISSEMINATING ANTI-DRUG FILMS OR WRITTEN MATERIALS TO THE PUBLIC UNLESS THEY HAD RECEIVED THE CEMEF STAMP OF APPROVAL FOR USE IN MEXICO (SEE MEXICO A-8).

E. IN PART AS A REPLY TO MEXICO 102 (NOTAL), AND IN THREE DEPARTMENTAL INSTRUCTIONS, THE EMBASSY RECEIVED GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR DEA OPERATIONS IN COUNTRY, AND FOR THE CONSULAR ROLE IN PROTECTING THE

RIGHTS OF ARRESTED US CITIZENS. CONSISTENT WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS, THE AMBASSADOR WILL SOON ISSUE HIS OWN GUIDELINES TO SUPPLEMENT THOSE ALREADY RECEIVED.

F. THE EMBASSY RESPONDED TO THE SEMI-ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS, IN MEXICO 1125.

G. THE GOM'S SPRING ERADICATION CAMPAIGN GOT UNDERWAY JANUARY 15. ALTHOUGH HAMPERED BY AS-YET INCOMPLETE FORWARD BASES AND BY SOME NON-OPERATIONAL HELICOPTERS, THE GOM POLICE AND ARMY PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN WORKING HARD AND HAVE ACHIEVED RESPECTABLE RESULTS, BOTH IN ERADICATION AND INTERDICTION. FOR DETAILS, SEE DEA'S "OPERATION CLEARVIEW/SEAM 75" WEEKLY PROGRESS REPORTS (NOTAL).

H. IN JANUARY WE REPORTED IMPRESSIVE OPIUM SEIZURES, NOTING THAT ACCORDING TO GOM SOURCE, 232 KG. WERE SEIZED IN THREE DAYS, JANUARY 13-15 (MEXICO 591). IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION THE SAME SOURCE CONFIRMED THE ACCURACY OF THE FIGURE, BUT SAID HE HAD BEEN MISINFORMED CONCERNING THE PERIOD COVERED; RATHER THAN THREE DAYS, THE PERIOD WAS CLOSER TO TWO WEEKS, HE SAID.

I. THE MANY FACETS OF THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM RECEIVED A LARGE PRESS PLAY IN JANUARY, WITH: (A) EL HERALDO RUNNING A THREE-PART SERIES ON TIJUANA'S INFAMOUS HERNANDEZ BROTHERS; (B) ATTORNEY GENERAL OJEDA PAULLADA DESCRIBING "COMPASS TRIP" AND OTHER NEW ELEMENTS IN THE 1975 ERADICATION CAMPAIGN; (C) AN ARMY SPOKESMAN SAYING THAT THE LACK OF ROADS AND SEED MONEY FORCES MICHOACAN FARMERS TO GROW POPPY AND MARIJUANA; (D) EL CORREO (CUIDAD JUAREZ) REPORTING THE FORTHCOMING CONFIDENTIAL

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TRIPARTITE WORKING MEETING ON NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT, TO TAKE PALCE IN EL PASO; (E) THE SAME PAPER CARRYING STATEMENTS BY THE CHIEF OF THE CHIHUAHUA STATE POLICE UNDERLINING THE NEED FOR MORE RESOURCES TO COMBAT THE NARCOTICS TRAFFIC; AND (F) SEVERAL PAPERS CARRYING ARTICLES ON THE DRUG TRAFFIC WITHIN MEXICAN PRISONS AND STEPS DESIGNED TO CONTROL IT.

J. ABOVE AVERAGE PLAY WAS ALSO DEVOTED TO THE MEXICAN DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM; (A) A DIRECTOR OF THE UNION OF PARENTS DECRIED THE UNRESTRICTED SALE OF PILLS AND SOLVENTS TO YOUNGSTERS IN THE VALLEY OF MEXICO; (B) DR. BELSASSO OF CEMEF GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE UNDERLINED THE TERRIBLE RESULTS OF SOLVENT ABUSE, DESCRIBED MEXICO AS THE PILOT CENTER FOR

LATIN AMERICA IN DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION, AND SAID THAT MEXICAN TREATMENT CENTERS ARE ALREADY ATTENDING MANY YOUNG PEOPLE PER MONTH; (C) IN MEXICO CITY, THE GUSTAVO MADERO DISTRICT GOVERNMENT REAFFIRMED ITS DETERMINATION TO WORK WITH THE NORTHERN CENTER OF YOUTH INTEGRATION TO COMBAT DRUG ABUSE, AND ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD SOON RELEASE THE RESULTS OF A STUDY INVOLVING SOME 7,000 YOUNGSTERS IN THE AREA; (D) THE DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN (INPI) SAID HIS ORGANIZATION WOULD BUILD A CENTER FOR THE TREATMENT

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OF DRUG ABUSERS FROM THE SEMI-RURAL AREA TO THE SOUTH OF MEXICO CITY; (E) THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, DR. JIMENEZ CANTU, INAUGURATED THE THIRD LATIN AMERICAN COURSE IN TOXICOLOGY, DURING WHICH DR. BELSASSO AGAIN TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO EMPHASIZE THE SERIOUS PROBLEM CAUSED IN MEXICO BY THE INCREASE OF SOLVENTS AND OTHER INHALANTS; AND (F) AT THE SAME CONFERENCE, THE COURSE COORDINATOR DESCRIBED THE INCREASE IN YOUTHFUL DRUG ADDICTION DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS AND CALLED FOR A PERMANENT CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT AND CONTROL THE USE OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES.

2. GOM ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

A. WITH U.S. AUTHORITIES

11 TONS MARIJUANA SEIZED NEAR HERMOSILLO; TWO ARRESTS.

6.5 KG. HEROIN AND 1 KG. COCAINE TAKEN ON
TRAIN NEAR EMPALME, SONORA; WONER FLED.

500 GM. COCAINE SEIZED NEAR NOGALES; THREE DEFENDANTS ARRESTED.

3.5 KG. RAW OPIUM TAKEN IN ACAPULCO; ONE ARREST.
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6 TONS MARIJUANA SEIZED NEAR HERMOSILLO.

1 KG. HEROIN SEIZED IN CUIDAD JUAREZ; FURTHER
INVESTIGATION LED TO ADDITIONAL 1.25 KG. HEROIN
AND .25 KG. COCAINE, SEIZURE OF CRUDE HEROIN
LABORATORY AND ARRESTS TOTALLING SEVEN PERSONS.

HEROIN LAB TAKEN IN CULIACAN; TWO MEXICANS, ONE US CITIZEN
ARRESTED.

100 GM. HEROIN AND CONVERSION LAB SEIZED IN SINALOA; ONE ARREST.

HEROIN LAB AND 3 KG. OPIUM GUM SEIZED IN SINALOA; ONE ARREST.
1.200 KG. HEROIN SEIZED NEAR HERMOSILLO; THREE ARRESTS.

ONE TON MARIJUANA, 2 CESSNA AIRCRAFT TAKEN NEAR HERMOSILLO;
5 ARRESTS.

11 KG. OPIUM GUM AND HEROIN LAB SEIZED IN CULIACAN; SIX ARRESTS.

TWO US CITIZENS ARRESTED, 25 KG. MARIJUANA SEIZED IN SINALOA.

ONE-HALF TON MARIJUANA TAKEN IN SINALOA; TWO US CITIZENS ARRESTED.

B. INDEPENDENT MEXICAN OPERATIONS

THREE TONS MARIJUANA SEIZED IN ATENANGO DEL RIO, GUERRERRO;
THREE ARRESTS.

600 KG. MARIJUANA TAKEN FROM TRAIN TO NOGALES;

550 KG. MARIJUANA SEIZED IN MICHAOACAN.

446 KG. MARKUANA TAKEN FROM TRAIN AT EMPALE, SONORA.

6.5 KG. OPIUM SEIZED IN LOS MOCHIS; 4 ARRESTS.

350 GM. HEROIN TAKEN IN NUEVO LAREDO; 3 ARRESTS.

"FUNERAL" PROCESSION INTERCEPTED BY POLICE IN
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JALISCO, WHO FOUND 70 KG. MARIJUANA IN COFFIN; THREE "MOURNERS"
ARRESTED.

TWO US CITIZENS ARRESTED IN TIJUANA, WHEN THEY WERE FOUND
WITH SIX RIFLES, TWO PISTOLS AND A DRUG TESTING KIT.

TWO TRAFFICKERS KILLED, THREE WOUNDED IN SHOOTOUT WITH ARMY
TROOPS AND MEXICAN POLICE IN TEQUILA, JALISCO.

MEXICAN FEDERAL JUDICIAL POLICE ANNOUNCED FROM GUADALAJARA
THAT OVER WEEKEND OF JAN. 11-13 THEY HAD SEIZED OVER 58 KG. OPIUM
AT ROADBLOCKS BETWEEN GUADALAJARA AND CULIACAN. THE FOLLOWING DAY
THEY ANNOUNCED AN ADDITIONAL 48.5 KG. (INCLUDING ONE SEIZURE
OF 40 KG.) WE ASSUME THESE ANNOUNCED SEIZURES COMPRISE THE 106 KG.
REPORTED IN MEXICO 533. ALL OPIUM WAS BEING TRANSPORTED FROM
GUERRERO PRODUCING AREA TO PROCESSING LABS IN CULIACAN AREA.

700 GM. HEROIN SEIZED IN TIJUANA; THREE ARRESTS.

750 KG. MARIJUANA SEIZED IN TIJUANA; ONE ARREST.

21 KG. OPIUM TAKEN IN THREE OPERATIONS AT A
MAGDALENA, JALISCO ROADBLOCK; 10 ARRESTED.

1.750 KG. COCAINE AND A CUTTING LABORATORY TAKEN
FROM MEXICAN/COLUMBIAN RINO IN GUADALAJARA AND MEXICO
CITY; 5 ARRESTED.

1.750 KG. COCAINE TAKEN FROM TWO COLUMBIANS IN MEXICO CITY.

1 KG. HEROIN TAKEN IN TIJUANA; TWO ARRESTS.

ONE-HALF TON MARIJUANA SEIZED, AND 3 US CITIZENS ARRESTED IN
MAZALTAN.

4 MEXICANS AND SIX US CITIZENS ARRESTED IN CRACK-DOWN ON
MARIJUANA SMUGGLING RING IN MAZATLAN.

1.2 KG. COCAINE TAKEN AT MEXICO CITY AIRPORT; CANADIAN ARRESTED.

TWO TONS MARIJUANA SEIZED IN DURANGO; THREE ARRESTED.
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3. KG. OPIUM TAKEN NEAR GUADALAJARA; 4 ARRESTS.

12 KG. OPIUM TAKEN AT ROADBLOCK SOUTH OF GUADALAJARA;
ONE PERSON ARRESTED, WHO CLAIMED HE HAD TAKEN OVER 70 KILOS HEROIN
INTO US SINCE 1970, CROSSING BORDER TO WEST OF NOGALES.

DEA REPORTS THAT GOM ROADBLOCK AT MAGDALENA, NORTH OF GUADALAJARA,
WITHIN THREE WEEKS HAD MADE 16 SEIZURES TALLING ABOUT 120 KG. OF
OPIUM (AND 50 ARRESTS). BETWEEN JANUARY 12 AND 18, GOM ROADBLOCKS
PLACED SOUTH OF GUADALAJARA NETTED 139 KG. OPIUM,
250 PISTOLS, 100 SHOTGUNS AND 65 ARRESTED PERSONS.

THESE SEIZURES OBVIOUSLY HAVE ALREADY BEEN REPORTED
BY EMBASSY, IN MEXICO 533 AND MEXICO 591.

C. MONTHLY WRAPUP (OFFICIAL GOM)

OPIUM

FIELDS DESTROYED: 960
AREA IN SQUARE METERS: 9,288,298
OPIUM GUM: 246.4 KG
SEEDS: 15.8 KG
HEROIN: 18.7 KG

COCAINE: 6.7 KG

DANGEROUS DRUGS: 50,070 AMPHETAMINE PILLS

MARIJUANA

FIELDS DESTROYED: ?251
AREA IN SQUARE METERS: 1,214,253
MARIJUANA (DRY) SEIZED: 66.636 TONS
SEED: 24.1 KG
HASHISH: ---

AIRCRAFT SEIZED: 7

AUTOMOBILES AND TRUCKS: 86
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ARRESTS

FOREIGNERS (MOSTLY US): 26
MEXICAN NATIONALS: 428

(NOTE: OFFICIAL GOM STATISTICS FOR SEIZURES
DURING JANUARY ACCORD WELL WITH THE EMBASSY'S UNOFFICIAL
COMPILATION OF DEA REPORTS AND PRESS ACCOUNTS,
EXCEPT THAT GOM FIGURES INDICATE SOME 6 KG. MORE
HEROIN SEIZED THAN WE HAD UNOFFICIALLY COMPILED. WE
HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT GOM STATISTICS, AND CONSIDER KT
LIKELY THAT THE PRESS STATISTICS MAY WELL HAVE BEEN
INACCURATE OR INCOMPLETE. ALSO NOTE THAT THE YEAR-END
WRAPUP GIVEN IN MEXICO 1043 IS EXACTLY THE SAME
AS THE OFFICIAL GOM STATISTICS FOR JANUARY 1 THROUGH
DECEMBER 31, 1974, RELEASED A FEW DAYS AGO.)
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, REPORTS, NARCOTICS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MEXICO01295
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750051-0451
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750250/aaaabsyu.tel
Line Count: 398
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 8
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MEXICO 374, 75 MEXICO A-37, 75 MEXICO 682, 75 MEXICO 750
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <20 NOV 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MISSION MONTHLY NARCOTICS REVIEW FOR JANUARY, 1975
TAGS: SNAR, MX, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006